



WISCONSIN

DEPARTMENT OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT  
Division of Economic Support  
Bureau of Welfare Initiatives

TO: **Economic Support Supervisors  
Economic Support Lead Workers  
Training Staff  
FSET Administrative and Provider Agencies  
Child Care Coordinators  
W-2 Agencies**

**BWI OPERATIONS MEMO**

**No.: 99-22**

**File: 2710**

**Date: 03/19/99**

**Non W-2 [X] W-2 [ ] CC [ ]**

**PRIORITY: URGENT**

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Policy Analysis and Program Implementation Section

**SUBJECT: MEDICAL ASSISTANCE - OBRA KIDS**

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**CROSS REFERENCE:** MA Handbook

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** April 1, 1999. This policy is not retroactive before this date.

**PURPOSE**

This memo communicates changes in Medical Assistance (Medicaid) (MA) eligibility for children that will accelerate the phase-in of so-called "OBRA Kids".

**BACKGROUND**

Children who are at least 6 years but not yet 19 years who were born on or after 09/30/1983 are MA eligible as long as family income does not exceed 100% of the federal poverty guidelines. There is no asset test.

**NEW POLICY**

Children who are at least 6 years but not yet 19 years are Medicaid eligible, **regardless of when they were born**, as long as family income does not exceed 100% of the federal poverty guidelines. There remains no asset test.

**CASES AFFECTED**

Any MA applicant or recipient assistance group that includes a child between the ages of 15 and 18 is affected.

**IMPLEMENTATION**

For ongoing cases, determine eligibility for children born before 9/30/1983 as their cases come up for review or when you re-determine eligibility as a result of a change or upon the request of the client.

## *CARES CHANGES*

This change will be automated in CARES as of March 22, 1999. The CARES changes will effect the MHSN assistance groups. After this time CARES will do the following:

1. Determine March Eligibility based on the current policy, which will exclude children born on or after September 30 1983 from MHSN assistance groups.
2. Determine eligibility for April and later, based on the new policy which will include as potentially eligible, this group of individuals born on or after September 30, 1983, as part of the MHSN Assistance Group.

## *MMIS CHANGES*

For individuals in MHSN assistance groups, a new medical status of GE will be used for children under 19 who were born before September 30, 1983. We will continue to use GC for those children born on or after September 30, 1983. You will see these medical status codes when querying these individuals on EDS Net. The GE code will be used to claim a higher match rate then regular Medicaid.

## **CONTACT**

CARES and Policy Call Center: 608-261-6317.